



*R. Ebert file*

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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NEW YORK, NY 10021

October 24, 1980

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. Robert Ebert  
President  
Milbank Memorial Fund  
1 East 75th Street  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Bob:

Pursuant to our phone conversation, I am enclosing the letter that I received early last summer from the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association. I have discussed the idea of a commission on the IND/NDA with a number of people and have had substantial encouragement that it would be timely and useful for an independent, academically based assessment to be mounted.

I would be very grateful to you for your good offices in organizing a meeting of the principle academic-medical leadership in the metropolitan area for a discussion of these proposals. If this group were to reach a consensus that the commission was a desirable option, I would ask it to function as a steering committee for the designation of the commission leadership and to offer some help with respect to its staffing and guidelines. It seemed to me that would be an excellent way to ensure both the integrity and the credibility of the inquiry.

May I mention that I have discussed this in particular with Kenneth Melmon and that his enthusiasm for our proceeding with this was most encouraging. I would hope to engage him, if we do proceed, later on at least as a consultant for guidance to the group.

Enclosed for the information of our colleagues is the communication from PMA. I do stress that the particular time constraints that were placed on the study are understood to be totally unrealistic and should be disregarded.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg